MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 JULY 1982

Lebanon

Soviet Warning -- In a message to President Ronald Reagan, Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev warned that if the United States sends a contingent of troops to Lebanon "the Soviet Union will build its policy taking this fact into account," TASS reported. Appealing to Reagan for the United States to do everything to stop the bloodshed in Lebanon, Brezhnev emphasized that "not a single responsible statesman can remain indifferent to the call of those who are dying in Lebanon at the hand of the Israeli invaders." He expressed the hope that common sense will gain the upper hand over "opportunistic calculations" and that the United States will do everything in its power to ensure that Israeli "aggression" ends and that the actions of the United States and its emissary in the Middle East not serve as a screen for continuing "aggression" by Israel.

Israeli Position -- Israel has informed the United States that it is ready to concede more time for political contacts to get the PLO out of Beirut, IDF radio reported. Although Jerusalem radio cited U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's statement that the Israeli Government has given U.S. envoy Philip Habib a period of grace until 11 July to find a solution, the radio later reported that Washington amended Weinberger's announcement after Prime Minister Menahem Begin informed the U.S. ambassador that Israel had not set such a date. Following a 7 July Cabinet session Israel made it clear to the United States that it totally opposes allowing the PLO to have an office in Beirut or units within the Lebanese Army, the radio noted. A source from Begin's office reiterated Israel's opposition to any PLO presence in Lebanon, the radio said, and stressed that unless the "terrorists" leave Beirut, Israel will maintain its intention of using the nonpolitical option.

PLO Position, Contacts -- A PLO spokesman cited by AFP asserted that the negotiations on the proposed withdrawal are currently moving "very, very slowly" and said the PLO would never leave on U.S. ships. However, he added that U.S. Marines could be an element in a multinational force that might be deployed in Lebanon. Asked about the possibility of other soldiers participating in this force, the spokesman said he believed France would be involved, Beirut radio reported. Citing AFP, the radio also noted that the Palestinians are asking for a multinational force under UN supervision to oversee a disengagement of forces in Beirut, a withdrawal of Israeli forces to a distance of 5 km from Beirut and a withdrawal of the Palestinians to the refugee camps prior to evacuating their forces.

Meanwhile, according to a knowledgeable Lebanese source cited by Jerusalem radio, the "terrorists" are presenting new conditions for leaving west Beirut under which in the first stage they would go to Al-Biqa' and the Tripoli area and later might agree to go to Syria or Egypt. According to the source, this action would be contingent on U.S. recognition of the PLO. The PLO leaders are also demanding that a multinational force of 12,000 soldiers should include French and not just American forces.

In other developments, Beirut radio reported that Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan, Amal movement leader Nabih Birri and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt held an "extremely important" meeting with Palestinian leaders. According to a subsequent Voice of Lebanon radio report, Al-Wazzan stated that agreement has been reached in principle on the stationing of international forces.

French Position -- During an interview carried by Paris radio, French Premier Pierre Mauroy denied that any plan exists for a joint operation with the United States but noted that the government is ready to discuss an international force to keep order under four conditions: receipt of a request from the Lebanese Government, PLO agreement, UN endorsement, definition of the mandate of this force and the presence of UN observers.

Military Situation -- Israeli-Palestinian artillery exchanges resumed during the afternoon and intensified in the evening, Beirut radio reported. While the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio accused the IDF of breaking the cease-fire, the IDF spokesman said the "terrorists" had sniped at Israeli soldiers several times during the day, according to ITIM. The Israelis "reacted sharply" to the wounding of IDF soldiers, Jerusalem radio subsequently noted. Beirut radio said the capital was calm during the night but cited reports of violent fighting in the Al-Biqa' Valley between Syrian and Israeli forces. Earlier, the radio reported the Israelis were allowing limited traffic through the crossing points between east and west Beirut.

While the Voice of Palestine claimed Israeli radio had reported that Israeli Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan was seriously injured on 7 July, monitored Israeli radio broadcasts did not mention this.

Detainees -- Captured "terrorists," who are officially considered "administrative detainees," are being transferred to a newly-built detention camp in southern Lebanon, according to Jerusalem radio.

Israel

The authorities warned Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa that he will be dismissed if he does not restore the town council to full operation within 3 days, Jerusalem radio noted. The radio also reported that the military commander of Judaea and Samaria closed the West Bank University of Bi'r Zayt for 3 months because of repeated student demonstrations.

Syria

Voice of Lebanon radio reported clashes between security forces and the Muslim Brotherhood in Damascus and Aleppo.

PDRY-Oman

At the end of 5 days of negotiations in Kuwait between Omani and South Yemeni delegations, the Kuwaiti foreign minister announced that the two sides has agreed on a program of action which provides a basis for future negotiations, KUNA reported. Another Kuwaiti official indicated that the talks were a prelude to the normalization of Omani-PDRY relations, according to a related KUNA report.

Afghanistan

A DRA Government statement carried by Kabul radio claimed that security forces have gained control of the Panjsher Valley and captured a large number of rebels. The statement called for all other counterrevolutionaries to surrender, saying they will be treated in accordance with the law.

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 131 8 July 1982

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

AFGHANISTAN

Government Calls on Rebels To Surrender C 1
JASARAT: Rebels Hit Forces in Qandahar [Karachi 3 Jul] C 2
Pashtun Leader Ghaffar Khan Arrives in Jalalabad C 2
Welcomed in Kabul C 3
Ratebzad Leaves for Congo at Invitation of AAPSO C 3
Briefs: GDR Power Contract; GDR Aid C 3

INDIA

Gandhi Rebuts 'Malicious' Opposition Charges E 1
Court Dismisses Petition Against Zail Singh E 1
Spokesman: Uranium Production To Double E 1

PAKISTAN

Haq Appeals to Security Council Over Lebanon F 1
Briefs: Exports to Iran F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene on Antigovernment Campaign G 1
Jayewardene on Democratic Government, Freedoms G 1
Briefs: Swedish Assistance; World Bank Loan G 1

IRAN

Kidnapping of Diplomats in Lebanon Protested I 1
Spokesman Scores Iraqi Invitation to Iranians I 1
Iraqis Destroyed Oil Wells During Retreat I 2
Tehran Reports Aborted Iraqi Bombing Raid I 2
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 967 I 2
Ground Forces Commander on Progress of War I 3
Official Interviewed on Petrochemical Projects I 4
Deputy Petroleum Minister on Liquid Gas Shortage I 5
Petrochemical Protocol Signed With GDR I 5
Clandestine Reports Attack on Commerce Minister I 6
[Free Voice of Iran]
Attempted Assassin, Others Executed in Mashhad I 6
[ETTELA'AT 27 Jun]
59 Safehouses Discovered in Khuzestan Province I 7
'Counterrevolutionaries' Surrender in Kordestan I 7
Briefs: Basra Official Assassinated I 7

GOVERNMENT CALLS ON REBELS TO SURRENDER

LD071820 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Statement issued by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan -- date not given]

[Text] The victories of the glorious April Revolution, particularly its new development stage, in our ancient, free and independent land have opened the way for our people to a prosperous and glorious (?future). The revolution brought our country onto the path of profound socioeconomic and political changes. The struggling, Muslim and working people of our homeland, from the very dawn of the national democratic revolution which was the product of long struggle, determination and the aspiration of the millions of workers of our homeland, rose in complete support under the leadership of the PDPA and helped toward the realization of its aims and began the work of struggle.

International criminal imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism and Chinese hegemonism and in collusion with internal and regional reaction, shamelessly embarked on direct and open interference in the domestic affairs of our revolutionary country. In the disguise of so-called defense of Islam, they committed and are committing many crimes against our people and revolution. They send their mercenary groups and criminal spies to our revolutionary homeland. In the last 2 years these infiltrated killers, armed and supported by international reaction, have burned about 1,500 schools; destroyed hundreds of buildings and bridges; terrorized or killed a large number of peasants who had received land; terrorized or killed a large number of teachers who were giving the benefit of their knowledge and literacy to the sons of this land; and terrorized or killed a large number of patriots who were accomplishing their revolutionary tasks.

Therefore, our revolutionary government has taken, and is taking, decisive measures to end the savage actions of the mercenary servant bands. Our noble compatriots know that our heroic armed forces, helped by the working people of Panjsher, destroyed the nests of rebels in that valley which, according to the enemies and the rebels themselves, were invincible. They have crushed a large number of these thieves and professional lunatics, who were disrupting the peaceful life of the inhabitants of Panjsher District. Large numbers of them were captured and a great quantity of weapons and equipment was seized from the stores and hideouts of the counterrevolutionaries.

The security forces of the DRA have proved that they are in control of Panjsher Valley. They defeated the thieves and plunderers, who were hiding in caves in order to disrupt the lives of the people; they have reopened the doors of schools and mosques and have prepared, and are preparing, the conditions for a normal and peaceful life for the inhabitants of Panjsher District.

Our enemies have sustained a shattering blow in Panjsher. They have realized the consolidation of state power and the strength of our heroic armed forces. Now the hands of plunderers and looters have been removed from public property and no one will be given the opportunity any longer to loot our country's natural resources, which belong to our working people, and give them to their masters and their traitorous leaders. The inhabitants of Panjsher District, who have witnessed the criminal nature of these lunatics and who have suffered oppression at their hands, are now determined to stand on the side of the armed forces, the security forces and the party activists and defend their lands.

Of course, the poisonous propaganda from Western sources distort the facts concerning our revolutionary country, including Panjsher District. The fact is that people's power has been consolidated in Panjsher, the army has won a great victory and the enemies of the revolution have been defeated.

Shameless interference by international imperialism and the savage crimes of counterrevolutionary elements have not been able, and are not able, to turn our working people and the DRA Government away from the path they have chosen.

With every passing day the truth of the April Revolution and its new development stage has been realized, and the lofty aspiration of our revolution has been completely and unreservedly supported by our people. All our workers throughout the country are taking part in [word indistinct]. Once again it has been proved to the world that the fortresses of the glorious April Revolution are steel and that our revolutionary forces are forging ahead step by step and are winning successes.

The DRA Government informs our dear compatriots that it is in control of the situation in Panjsher and that the life of the people of Panjsher is returning to normal day by day. The necessary measures are being taken to consolidate state power and to maintain peaceful conditions. The DRA Government is endeavoring to maintain peace throughout the country, and everyone knows that counterrevolutionaries are doomed to defeat. Therefore, the revolutionary government calls on the vestiges of counterrevolutionary elements to lay down their arms and to voluntarily surrender to the state organs. If they do so they will be treated in accordance with the decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium dated 18 June 1981. The government deems it its duty to maintain the security of those individuals who lay down their weapons and who voluntarily surrender to the state organs.

JASARAT: REBELS HIT FORCES IN QANDAHAR

GF071205 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 3 Jul 82 pp 1, 8

[Text] London, 2 July (AAP) -- Reports on two recent clashes between the mujahidin and Afghan Government forces indicate that the mujahidin killed 47 government soldiers, including 15 Soviets.

The mujahidin raid was organized to capture arms from government guards posted in the center of Qandahar city and a suburb called (Malehat). The mujahidin group, led by Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, lost five guerrillas in the raid, capturing eight cases of government ammunition and several cases of handgrenades.

In a similar raid the mujahidin killed 32 Soviet soldiers and wounded more than 100. In this skirmish Afghan guerrillas of the Islamic Alliance group attacked a group of Soviet soldiers who, after losses, retreated from their position and were replaced by Afghan soldiers. Some 15 Afghan soldiers were killed during the ensuing skirmish. The government troops left behind 15 Kalashnikov rifles.

In Kama subdivision of Nangarhar Province 11 Afghan soldiers recently defected to the Afghan guerrilla organization. Afghan soldiers manning a post got in touch with the guerrillas through a collaborator, M'alam Afridi, and expressed their desire to defect. They asked to join the guerrilla group. They were accepted and joined the guerrillas on 10 June. They were armed with Soviet and Italian-made arms which are now in the possession of the Afghan guerrillas.

PASHTUN LEADER GHAFFAR KHAN ARRIVES IN JALALABAD

LD031830 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jul 82

[Text] Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the great leader of Pashtuns, this morning arrived in Jalalabad, capital of Nangarhar Province, from the border of Torkham.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was warmly welcomed by the head of the eastern zone, officials of the party, government and Nangarhar Province, and leaders of Nangarhar tribes.

When he arrived at his lodging Khan Abdul Ghaffar expressed thanks for the warm and sincere welcome.

Welcomed in Kabul

LD041730 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 4 Jul 82

[Text] Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the great and militant leader of the Pashtuns, arrived in Kabul by air from Jalalabad today. He was accompanied by Solayman Laeq, the minister of nationalities and tribes. They were welcomed at the airport by Aslam Watanjar, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and minister of communications; Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the party Central Committee; Dr Mehraboddin Paktiawal, director of the Central Bank; deputy ministers and some heads of section in the Nationalities and Tribes Ministry; and some tribal elders.

RATEBZAD LEAVES FOR CONGO AT INVITATION OF AAPSO

GF041840 Kabul in English to South Asia 1530 GMT 4 Jul 82

[Text] Dr Anahita Ratebzad, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and president of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, left for the People's Republic of Congo at the head of a delegation on the invitation of the general secretary of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization to participate in the extraordinary session of the [word indistinct] of the states organizations to be held in Brazzaville, Congo.

Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and minister of communications; Dr Majid, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan; Dr Niaz Mohammad Mohmand, secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and member of the Council of Ministers; the vice president and some members of the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization; a number of members of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan, and the deputy chief of the protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were present at the Kabul International Airport to bid farewell to Dr Ratebzad and her accompanying delegation.

BRIEFS

GDR POWER CONTRACT -- Kabul, July 3, BAKHTAR -- A contract for the purchase of the tools and equipments belonging to the fourth power project of Kabul city at a total cost of 284,050 dollars between the minister of power energy of the DRA and Electrotechnic Company of the German Democratic Republic was concluded here today. Due to overburden on the northwest substation, a transformer at a capacity of over 25 thousand ampere kilowatts will be temporarily installed and will go into operation this year. A new north substation is also planned to be installed. Its construction work will be started some time in March 1982 [as received] and will be completed in late September 1982. With the completion of this substation, a transformer with a capacity of 40 thousand ampere kilowatts will be ready for utilization. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0431 GMT 4 Jul 82 LD]

GDR AID -- Kabul, July 3, BAKHTAR -- A plane load of relief goods from GDR to DRA arrived in Kabul today. The goods include medicine, notebooks, teaching laboratories for mathematics, equipments and materials needed for the party printing press. [Text] [Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 4 Jul 82 LD]

GANDHI REBUTS 'MALICIOUS' OPPOSITION CHARGES

BK071626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] Mrs Gandhi has accused the opposition of launching a malicious campaign against the Congress-I and her government. She was addressing a general body meeting of the party in Parliament in New Delhi today.

Mrs Gandhi said the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh are adopting the same type of propaganda as was done by Hitler in Germany. They have been trying to alienate the party from the people by propagating that atrocities against weaker sections, minorities and women are on the increase. She said this is false propaganda; on the other hand, her government has done a lot for the uplift of these sections of society.

Refuting another opposition charge, she said that her government has implemented land reforms and many welfare schemes for the benefit of farmers. Mrs Gandhi said opposition parties speak of upholding democracy, socialism and secularism -- but they have no policies of their own. The so-called opposition unity is meant only to defeat Congress-I, she said.

Briefing newsmen, Party Secretary Lakappa said Mrs Gandhi referred to the recent elections and denied that her party has lost ground or suffered heavy defeat. In fact, she said we have not done worse in these elections than earlier. The performance was distinctly better in West Bengal and Kerala.

Mrs Gandhi referred to Zail Singh as an old freedom fighter who had made many sacrifices during the freedom struggle. As chief minister of Punjab he had handled the problems of the state tactfully with a commonsense approach.

About the resignation of a few members in Karnataka, Mrs Gandhi said such incidents are being magnified. She called upon her party members to associate themselves with the implementation of the new 20-point program.

On the international situation, Mrs Gandhi said that the Israeli aggression in Lebanon is uncalled for. Our sympathies are always with the Palestinians. A medical team has been sent already to help the people in the war-affected area.

Mrs Gandhi said during her forthcoming visit to the United States she would put across India's views on this and other issues in the correct perspective.

COURT DISMISSES PETITION AGAINST ZAIL SINGH

BK061336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Jul 82

[Text] The Delhi High Court today dismissed a writ petition challenging the nomination of the Congress-I candidate Zail Singh to the presidential election. The petition was filed by [opposition leader] Raj Narain. Justice (Rajinder Thucher) and Justice R.N. Agarwal observed that the petition is not maintainable as the election process has been set in motion.

SPOKESMAN: URANIUM PRODUCTION TO DOUBLE

BK061410 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Jul 82

[Text] The nuclear fuel complex [NFC], Hyderabad, is to double its production of natural uranium from 100 tons to 200 tons annually. This is to meet the growing requirements of this vital input in nuclear powerplants.

A spokesman of the complex said in Hyderabad that the expansion program will be taken up in October next. The spokesman said that the NFC is supplying fuel to three power units at Kalpakkam, Kota and Narora. It will soon start supply to Kakarapara plant in Gujarat.

HAQ APPEALS TO SECURITY COUNCIL OVER LEBANON

BK071729 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has urged the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, especially the superpowers, to use their rights and influence to ensure the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and to stop the massacre of Arabs and Palestinians by Israelis.

In identical telegrams to President Reagan of the United States, President Brezhnev of the Soviet Union, President Mitterrand of France, Premier Zhao Ziyang of China and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, the president has sought their personal intervention in terminating the intolerable state of affairs in Lebanon.

The president said while the world community has a common duty to stop Israel from pursuing massacre and barbaric acts, it is the prime responsibility of the permanent members of the Security Council to stop Israel because they have the ability and the necessary resources in hand to do so.

The president has also appealed to these five permanent members to take effective steps to insure restoration of the inalienable national and human rights of the Palestinians whose suffering and misery constitute a blot on the conscience of mankind. The president said if Israel is not restrained now, consequences for regional and global peace and security would be incalculable and neither great nor small countries would be able to remain safe from its harmful impact.

The president said that in view of the sad plight of the Lebanese people in the wake of the Israeli invasion, he was compelled to seek the direct intervention of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in ending this intolerable state of affairs.

The president's telegrams were sent to the Pakistani Embassies in the capitals of the countries concerned to be handed over to the heads of state of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan met with ambassadors of the United States, Soviet Union, France, China and Britain in the Foreign Office today and handed them copies of the president's telegrams to be sent to their respective governments. He apprised them of Pakistan's growing concern over the state of affairs in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, reliable sources have confirmed reports that Pakistan intends to send a high-level military delegation to Damascus to ascertain what aid Pakistan can provide in view of the present situation in Lebanon. Pakistan is awaiting a reply in this regard. Four planes carrying relief goods from Pakistan have already been sent to Damascus. In addition, a 16-member Pakistani medical team is awaiting clearance from the concerned authorities in Damascus; as soon as it receives the clearance it will leave for Damascus.

Reliable sources said that Pakistan has established contacts with the International Red Cross on press reports that 58 Pakistanis among 5,000 prisoners captured by the Israelis are being mistreated.

The sources also said that the Pakistani Embassy in west Beirut is functioning normally.

BRIEFS

EXPORTS TO IRAN -- The list of commodities to be exported from Pakistan to Iran under the long-term trade agreement has been announced. They include rice, cotton yarn, cotton cloth, carpets, leather, fish products, readymade garments and textiles of all kinds. [Text] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 4 Jul 82 BK]

SRI LANKA

JAYEWARDENE ON ANTIGOVERNMENT CAMPAIGN

BK071153 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] President Jayewardene told the government parliamentary group at its meeting yesterday that certain individuals, some members of the Sangha and laymen were attempting to organize a campaign against the government and the United National Party under the guise of protecting the Buddha Sasana [religion] and the Sinhala race. He said that some of their activities had been exposed while others will be exposed in due course. The president told members of the party that they should be cautious before they supported any of these or similar organizations or individuals.

The president in his address to the parliamentary group also referred to the killing of police officers by terrorists in Jaffna. The terrorists, he said, did not differentiate between Sinhala and Tamil. The government had taken several stern measures to deal with terrorism. He requested the group to support the government which plans to take more intensive steps to wipe out terrorism throughout the island. While condoling with the families of the victims, the president recommended that adequate financial support be extended to the families of the dead or the injured.

In reply to questions by MP's, Jayewardene said that no decision had been taken to discontinue employees of the JEDB [expansion unknown] or the (Janabasama).

JAYEWARDENE ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, FREEDOMS

BK281115 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jun 82

[Text] A nation could not be governed by enforcing emergency laws or by giving the armed forces to take over the administration. A nation could become prosperous only if it is governed by an honest and experienced leader. It is essential that the leaders of the country should set an example to the people, both by precepts and action.

These views were expressed by the president at Kelaniya yesterday. The occasion was the laying of the foundation stone for a sangramaya. Explaining the difference between the past administration and the present government, Jayewardene said that the previous government ruled under emergency and curbed domestic freedom. Political opponents were put in jail without any rhyme or reason. Lands were taken by force. Today, there is complete freedom in every sector. The president reiterated that the government would not postpone elections. The basic foundation of a democratic government, he added, was free elections.

BRIEFS

SWEDISH ASSISTANCE -- The Swedish Parliament has approved Rs.3.72 billion (Swedish kroner 1.088 billion) for the Kotmale hydro-power project -- the largest single commitment of funds made under Swedish development co-operation programme to any country. This new commitment approved by the Parliament in Stockholm will be spread over six years -- 1982 -- 83 to 1987 - 88 -- the development co-operation office of the Swedish Embassy in Colombo announced yesterday. It is in addition to Rs. 1.05 billion (Swedish Kroner 307 million) already provided for the project. Furthermore, a subsidised credit of Rs. 800 million (Swedish Kroner 234) will be provided for the electromechanical works of the project, it said. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 16 Jun 82 BK]

WORLD BANK LOAN -- The World Bank has approved a loan of nearly $43 million for the Ceylon Electricity Board for diesel power project. The loan covers a period of 20 years and includes the grace period of 2 years. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Jun 82 BK]

KIDNAPPING OF DIPLOMATS IN LEBANON PROTESTED

LD072214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] Following the kidnapping of four members of the Islamic Republic of Iran Embassy staff in Beirut, the political under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told our correspondent:

Our Brother Musavi, the embassy's [word indistinct], and three of his companions were on their way from Damascus to Beirut. Because of the closure of the Damascus-Beirut road they were using [word indistinct]-Tripoli road. They were searched and detained by the Phalangists at one of the border posts. Our brothers were under Lebanese Government protection and were travelling with the knowledge of the Lebanese Government. The Lebanese policemen who were escorting them were later released by the Phalangists.

The political under secretary of our Foreign Ministry added: While all other foreign diplomats are frequenting Beirut at ease, the diplomats of the Islamic Republic of Iran are being kidnapped in a manner that naturally does not surprise us, because our essential and vital role and activities in foiling the U.S. conspiracy in Lebanon and preventing the implementation of compromising proposals aimed at suppression of the Palestinian Revolution places us in a special category.

He added: The detention of these brothers in occupied Lebanon reminds us of the detention of our other brother Tondguyan [former Iranian oil minister captured by the Iraqis]. Both events are indicative of the cooperation between and identical policies and activities of the Ba'thists and the Zionists. Yet these events will not divert our attention from the main issue of war and we shall not lay down our weapons until we have reached Jerusalem via Baghdad.

Commenting on the steps taken by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the release of Iranian Embassy staff in Lebanon, he said: The Lebanese ambassador to Iran has been summoned to the Foreign Ministry and given the necessary warning. We have told the Lebanese Government that they are aware of the fact that our brothers were under Lebanese police protection and responsibility for their safety remained with the Lebanese Government. At the same time we have given the Lebanese Government a note through our ambassador in Beirut. We have warned the Lebanese defense minister and police chief and have asked them to use all their efforts for the release of our brothers.

SPOKESMAN SCORES IRAQI INVITATION TO IRANIANS

LD061828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jul 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the deceitful announcement made by the Ba'thist and Zionist regime of Iraq about allowing Iranian families to visit the holy shrines, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while referring to the great military and political defeats suffered by the Zionist regime of Iraq, made some remarks in this connection.

The spokesman said: The hated Ba'thist and Zionist regime is trying to pretend that it is meek [mazlum] and by doing so this regime wants to make up for its lost prestige.

The spokesman added: The Islamic Republic of Iran, for the first time in the history of wars between nations, proposed the innovative plan of exchanges of families of prisoners of war and announced that the Iraqi families who come to Iran can also visit the holy places if they would like to. Even after a time, when Iraq refused to accept the families of Iranian prisoners of war, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran unilaterally announced that it was ready to allow families of the Iraqi prisoners of war to visit Iran and that Iran would pay all their expenses.

The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued: The recent Iraqi proposal, which has been submitted as an independent proposal, is nothing other than the same clause of the Iranian proposal.

He added: We view the Iraqi proposal as a ridiculous propaganda maneuver and announce that we are still prepared to allow families of the Iraqi prisoners of war to visit Iranian holy places.

The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs continued: We are prepared to dispatch 1,000 Iraqi families every day from among those who have been deported from that country on condition that Iraq guarantees that no trouble, torture, imprisonment or death awaits them.

It is necessary to mention that several nights ago the Ba'thist and Zionist regime of Iraq, in a new propaganda maneuver, announced that it is ready to admit 1,000 Iranian families daily from 6 to 21 July to visit the holy places. The spokesman for the Ba'thist regime announced that the pilgrims should be either over 60 or below 14 years of age and that those in between will not be admitted.

IRAQIS DESTROYED OIL WELLS DURING RETREAT

LD071738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] According to IRNA, during its flight from the occupied territory of Musian to (Jabal al-Hamrang), the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy destroyed most of the oil wells in the region. The sound of explosion of wells in the region still under Ba'thist occupation can be heard.

The enemy has stolen all the extraction equipment and seven drillings rigs from the Musian area.

TEHRAN REPORTS ABORTED IRAQI BOMBING RAID

LD071716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Excerpt] According to an IRNA report from Abadan, in spite of Saddam's empty declaration of a unilateral cease-fire and [words indistinct] by the Saddam regime that the cease-fire is being observed by Iraqi forces, at 0700 today four MiG's belonging to the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi Army took off from Basra's Ash-Shu'aybah Airbase on a mission to bomb Abadan's residential sectors. However, they were forced to flee by our antiaircraft units before carrying out their dirty and inhuman mission.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 967

LD071748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Communique No 967 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. In extending greetings on the occasion of the happy birthday of the holy Imam Hasan al-Mujtaba -- may peace be upon him -- we wish to bring to your attention a summary of the military operations and of the situation on the battlefields:

During the past 24 hours on the country's southern fronts, exchange of fire continued on a limited scale and Islam's combatant forces, responding to enemy fire, inflicted losses and casualties on the Saddamist forces. Thanks to crossfire opened by units of the Islamic Republic of Iran Gendarmerie based in Abadan, while silencing enemy fire, trench-excavation operations and the setting up of fortifications and traffic by Iraqi forces along the Al-Faw-Basra highway were prevented. Six enemy trenches and foxholes were destroyed and 15 Saddamists were killed. Also, an emeny fuel dump was set ablaze.

Yesterday the Khorramshahr region and residential parts of Abadan came under heavy, long-range weapon fire from the enemy. As a result, 1 person was martyred and 16 people were wounded.

On the country's western fronts, the enemy continued his activities on our territory in order to strengthen his positions. The Saddamist forces are desperately attempting to delay operations by Islam's forces by laying mines, closing infiltration routes, erecting obstacles and laying booby traps. In these areas, our forces are rapidly engaged in mopping-up operations, extending and strengthening their positions and at the same time are controlling all enemy movements and traffic.

Yesterday artillery units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions and assembly points in Panjwin in Iraq. As a result, appreciable losses and casualties were inflicted on Saddam's troops stationed in that area and their activities were prevented.

On the Meymak front, exchange of fire continued between our forces and those of Saddam. Islam's combatants set fire to and destroyed two tanks and a number of enemy trenches. In the Paveh region, too, thanks to fire opened by our forces on Iraqi deployment points on the Kalhorat heights, many enemy bunkers were destroyed.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

GROUND FORCES COMMANDER ON PROGRESS OF WAR

LD071740 Tehran IRNA in English 1633 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] Tehran July 7 IRNA -- The commander of the ground forces, Colonel Sayyad Shirazi, today expressed the hope that the Islamic combatants of Iran would soon be able to hold unity prayers in Karbala' (a holy city in Iraq) along with the oppressed Iraqi nation. This, according to him, would be a start of the fulfillment of the world-wide mission of the Iranian soldiers against international colonialism and despotism and at the same time would be an attempt to eliminate the Zionist regime, paving the way for the liberation of holy Al-Quds. Thus, he added, "inshallah, the ground would be laid for the appearance of imam mahdi, the absent imam."

In an interview published in today's issue of the Persian evening daily KEYHAN, the ground forces commander also referred to the great international conspiracy designed by the world devouring U.S. and its puppet in the Middle East, the Zionist regime, which according to Sayyad Shirazi was nothing less than the recent inhuman Zionist invasion [words indistinct].

Colonel Sayyad Shirazi elaborated that by involving the Islamic Republic in a new front, the U.S. and its agent, Al-Quds usurper regime, aimed at distracting world attention from the shaky status of the Iraqi regime which was on the verge of collapse, following the repeated victories of the Iranian Army in the imposed war. Nevertheless, Shirazi pointed out, the Islamic Republic succeeded in thwarting this other conspiracy of imperialism on time, thanks to the alertness of Imam Khomeyni and the vigilance of the Iranian nation and Islamic combatants as well as the authorities of the country.

Speaking about the general status in the warfronts, the commander stated that the Islamic defenders had increased their activities during the holy month of Ramadan (the fasting month), adding that each and every day more volunteers were demanding to be dispatched to the battlefronts. He said although the enemy troops had apparently withdrawn from the western fronts, nonetheless, several strategic points on the border were still under their control. He further added that connective routes between the border towns of Qasr-e Shirin, Naftshahr and Sumar (which all have been completely devastated by the enemy) were cut because of their being under constant enemy fire.

In conclusion, Colonel Sayyad Shirazi urged the nation to further strengthen their unity and determination for toppling the Iraqi regime. With the martyrdom of Ayatollah Sadduqi (the late Friday prayers leader of Yazd who was assassinated by an MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] agent last week) in the holy month of Ramadan, Shirazi stressed, the Almighty had given the people and the Islamic combatants the [word indistinct] of greater victories in this month.

OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON PETROCHEMICAL PROJECTS

LD071536 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] Following the talks between Iran and several East European countries on cooperation with Iran in implementing petrochemical projects in Iran's next 5-year plan, our correspondent was granted an interview today in this connection by the Petroleum Ministry under secretary for petrochemical affairs. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] The Iranian petrochemical delegation which traveled to East European countries to discuss the next 5-year plan of the Iranian petrochemical industries and to attract the cooperation of the East European countries in implementing petrochemical projects has now returned to Tehran. Before any other questions, I ask the Petroleum Ministry under secretary for petrochemical affairs and the managing director of the national corporation of the Iranian petrochemical industries, who led this delegation, to tell us what plans in the field for petrochemical industries are envisaged for the next 5 years and whether in these 5 years Iran will be ready to carry out large-scale petrochemical plans and other new plans.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As regards what people in Iran expect of the petrochemical industries, an extensive plan for the next 20 years has been suggested to the Economic Council, the main points of which have been approved, and the purpose of this journey was to prepare an executive basis for this plan.

We must produce [words indistinct]. Petrochemical raw materials consist of ammonia for fertilizers, octanes for plastic materials, aromatics and methanol for textile fibers and melamine. In previously completed projects and in some projects which are being carried out they will complete some units which are not completed yet and some which have not even been predicted, such as methanol. [sentence as heard]

We organized this journey in order to prepare executive grounds and to assess the facilities of the countries specified by the Government of the Islamic Republic: In the first place we should contact Muslim countries, then nonaligned countries and then those whose [words indistinct] and technology will not entail other kinds of dependence. Fortunately, through our repeated visits and [words indistinct] and our really interesting understanding, with an open view we can choose countries for future cooperation and the creation of projects which must be carried out at least in the next 5 years.

[Question] What specific work have you in mind for the next 5 years?

[Answer] The following are our main projects: Methanol, which is used for producing synthetic materials such as plastics; phosphates -- we have an acute shortage of these; PVC, the raw material for which is produced from [words indistinct] or we import them from abroad -- we must produce enough PVC in this country, a large number of aromatics, which are used for producing artificial rubber and detergents; and paints. In the next 5 years, Godwilling, we must reach self-sufficiency. [end recording]

The Petroleum Ministry under secretary for petrochemical affairs and the managing director of the national corporation of the Iranian petrochemical industries, speaking about the latest decisions on the Iran-Japan petrochemical project, said that we intend to complete this project with the cooperation of our Japanese partner; we will complete all 13 units originally planned in the project.

He said that during the four rounds of talks with the Japanese, we reviewed the commitments of both sides. The Iranian side has repeated its promise to supply gas and oil, housing and water for industrial use and to fulfill its other commitments. The Japanese partners in the Iran-Japan petrochemical project are to travel to Iran soon and they will submit a plan for the immediate commencement of the project.

DEPUTY PETROLEUM MINISTER ON LIQUID GAS SHORTAGE

LD071324 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the shortages of liquid gas the deputy minister of petroleum who is the executive director of the national Iranian gas company has announced the following:

When the repairs to the refineries in the country are completed, the shortage which has come about recently in the supply of liquid gas will be eliminated during the ensuing weeks and the supply and distribution of gas will be the same as 6 months ago. Some steps have also been taken to eliminate the shortage of liquid gas and improve its distribution in the long term.

The executive director of the national Iranian gas company said: The production of liquid gas is connected with the production and refining of oil. In the past, when the Abadan, Mahshahr and Bakhtaran refineries were active, just as we did not have any shortages of other oil products we were not short of liquid gas either. We even had excess production of liquid gas, which was exported.

However, after the imposed war a shortage of liquid gas could be felt for two reasons: One was shortages of other fuels, which caused consumers to turn to the use of liquid gas. The other reason was the reduction in the refining of crude in the country. He added: The consumers of liquid gas in Tehran and in all other parts of the country should economize in its use until the shortage of liquid gas has been eliminated.

The executive director of the national Iranian gas company said: Our aim is to distribute liquid gas in a way that will put an end to irregularities. We have had some discussions with the Economic Mobilization headquarters and the results of these talks will be announced to the public after their conclusion.

PETROCHEMICAL PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH GDR

LD061246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Following negotiations between high-ranking officials of the petrochemical industry of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the GDR, the two countries have concluded a cooperation agreement concerning the construction of several factories to produce petrochemicals and phosphates in Iran. A protocol was signed by the deputy petroleum minister and the managing director of the Iranian petrochemical industry and the GDR deputy minister of chemical industry.

In this protocol the GDR has announced its readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in building a methanol production unit, a PVC production unit and a unit for the production of aromatics and also several units for the production of phosphates.

Deputy Petroleum Minister Taheri-Najafabadi, the managing director of the Iranian petrochemical industry, said that the construction of these chemical units is envisaged in Iran's 5-year industrial program beginning in 1983. He added that we provided the GDR with preliminary information about the construction of these units, and it will submit its proposals to us.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS ATTACK ON COMMERCE MINISTER

GF041700 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 4 Jul 82

[Text] According to our correspondent in the French capital, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] issued a statement in Paris today. According to the MKO, 'Asgar-Owladi, the commerce minister of the Khomeyni regime, was attacked in Tehran last week. As a result of the attack a number of his guards were killed, but he escaped with his life because he was riding in a bulletproof car. The statement says: The commerce minister of the regime also escaped the vengeful fire of the opposition forces once before.

The bulletproof car carrying 'Asgar-Owladi was followed by two cars full of guards. A number of the guards were annihilated in this attack.

The MKO described 'Asgar-Owladi as a person who, having control of Iranian commerce, concentrates his efforts to benefit the mullahs to the detriment of the Iranian bazaaris. He has harmed the Iranian bazaaris to the tune of billions of dollars so far while increasing his bank account and those of the mullahs in the European countries.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSIN, OTHERS EXECUTED IN MASHHAD

GF070652 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 Jun 82 p 2

[Excerpts] ETTELA'AT, Mashhad correspondent -- The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Court has announced: On the orders of the Mashhad Islamic Revolution Court, the plotter of the unsuccessful assassination attempt against Ayatollah Khaz'ali, those who have planted bombs in Mashhad and five narcotics dealers were executed in Mashhad. They were: 'Alireza Khoda'i, son of Gholamreza; Mohsen Shirmohammadi, son of Mohammad Javad; Ahmad 'Abbasian Abardeh, son of 'Ali Akbar; and Ahmad Talarian, son of 'Abbas.

Their crimes included active support for the hypocrites organization; propaganda activities in their respective high schools in the form of sale of books and distribution of communiques; responsibility for supplies for the student society; acting as political deputies and in charge of political affairs in several high schools; security officer for Mashhad District No 3; participation in activities in the military phase [as published]; being leader of several military teams; use of [Molotov] cocktails; being in charge of the assassination of martyr Astanehparast; participation in the assassination of a Mobilization department tailor; participation in the assassination of martyr Hoseyni, the representative of the national workers; participation in the assassination of a guard; armed participation in demonstrations; designing the assassination plan of Ayatollah Khaz'ali; use of their homes as safehouses; participation in explosions across the city; participation in the marches and riots of last year which were connected with the Qa'emshahr affairs; membership in the Vakilabad prison organization, and living in safehouses.

Mohammad 'Azim-Afghani was sentenced to death for establishing a den of iniquity and deceiving innocent youth, taking them to his house and repeated acts of homosexual intercourse with Hoseyn, age 16, and Seyyed Javad, age 15, and committing robbery with their cooperation on several occasions. At precisely the time when the Muslim Afghan mujahidin are fighting the usurping regime and the supercriminal Soviet Union, not only are such people escaping the scene of battle and struggle but they are also committing such shameless crimes. He was recognized by the court as corrupt on earth and another sentence of 70 lashes against him was carried out in public during the Friday prayers in Mashhad.

59 SAFEHOUSES DISCOVERED IN KHUZESTAN PROVINCE

LD061820 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jul 82

[Text] The Central Islamic Revolution Committee has announced:

As a result of the last 2 months' ceaseless and comprehensive operations with the collaboration of the 36-million-strong Hezbollahi intelligence organization, the self-sacrificing guards of the Khuzestan Islamic committee have succeeded in destroying 90 percent of the rickety and reactionary hypocrites organization in Khuzestan Province.

In these operations, more than 150 of the hypocrites' leading cadres and active supporters were killed or arrested, and in the discovery of 59 safehouses belonging to these mercenaries scores of RPG-7s, Kalashnikov, revolvers, powerful handmade bombs, grenades, explosives, TNT, T-junctions, detonators, gunpowder and hundreds of rounds of various sorts of ammunition, as well as very important organization documents, pamphlets and publications were seized.

The Central Islamic Revolution Committee also uncovered some of the conspiracies planned by the hypocrites against the defenders of the Islamic revolution which were neutralized as a result of the self-sacrificing guards' efforts, as follows:

They discovered and neutralized a plot to assassinate more than 40 committed personnel and pilots of the Airborne Division at the beginning of the Jerusalem Operations [bayt al-moqaddas] and the liberation of Khorramshahr in order to delay the start of the operation.

They neutralized conspiracies to assassinate the Friday imam and representative of the imam in Ahvaz, the religious judge and chief of Khuzestan's Islamic Revolution Courts, and the Khuzestan governor general.

They neutralized the conspiracy to detonate simultaneously bombs in several places in Ahvaz.

They neutralized a plot to assassinate scores of brother guards and Hezbollahi and they also neutralized scores of other planned operations.

'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' SURRENDER IN KORDESTAN

LD072254 Tehran IRNA in English 2015 GMT 7 Jul 82

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 7 IRNA -- The Islamic combatants yesterday secured the Bubavay heights near Sar Dasht, West Azarbayjan, and purged the region of armed outlaws. The Islamic forces reportedly returned safely to their base.

Meanwhile, 28 armed counterrevolutionaries surrendered themselves along with their weapons to the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guard Corps] centre in Sanandaj, Kordestan Province. Also four active agents of the banned Kurdish Democratic Party were captured Monday in the vicinity of the northwestern city of Maku, West Azarbayjan Province, along with weapons and munitions.

BRIEFS

BASRA OFFICIAL ASSASSINATED -- Tehran, July 4 -- The deputy security chief of Basra, Helal as-Samerrain Girma [as received] was shot dead by paramilitary fighters of the Islamic Ad-Da'wah Party of Iraq on June 7. Samerrain was assassinated while on way to his work at 2100 hours. Other reports indicate that during the past few days some 40 Iraqi officers have fled to Europe through Kuwait and others were awaiting an opportunity to escape Iraq following the recent victories of the Iranian combatants in the warfronts of the Iraqi imposed war. [Tehran IRNA in English 1949 GMT 4 Jul 82 LD]